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Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i).

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. This preliminary amendment amends claims 1, 3, 5, and 7, and deletes claims 2 and 6 without prejudice. In particular, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the recited feature of "the output port selector balancing load across the trunks of a composite trunk according to selectable weights." Similarly, independent claim 5 has been amended to include the recited feature of "the trunk being selected according to selectable weights to balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk." Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 5 may be found in the specification at least on page 8, line 25 through page 9, line 27.

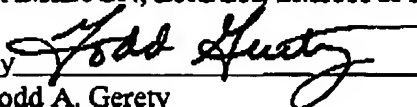
Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form to include the features of claim 1 as originally filed. Claim 3 has also been amended to clarify that the output port selector "dynamically selects an output port for a packet from a composite port to balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk." Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to include the features of claim 5 as originally filed. Claim 7 has also been amended to clarify that the trunk is "dynamically selected to balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk." Support for the amendments to claims 3 and 7 may be found in the specification at least on page 9, lines 19 through 27. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1, 3-5, and 7-10 are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (978) 341-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

1. (Amended) A network router comprising:
 - a plurality of trunk ports, including a composite port of plural ports to plural trunks which serve as a composite trunk to a common destination;
 - a routing fabric for transfer of data packets between trunk ports; and
 - an output port selector which selects an output port for a packet from a composite port, the output port selector balancing load across the trunks of a composite trunk according to selectable weights.
3. (Amended) A network router [as claimed in Claim 1 wherein] comprising:
 - a plurality of trunk ports, including a composite port of plural ports to plural trunks which serve as a composite trunk to a common destination;
 - a routing fabric for transfer of data packets between trunk ports; and
 - an [the] output port selector which dynamically selects an output port for a packet from a composite port to balance [balances] load across the trunks of a composite trunk.
5. (Amended) A method of routing packets in a network comprising:
 - identifying a destination of the packets;
 - selecting one of plural trunks forming a composite trunk to the destination, the trunk being selected according to selectable weights to balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk; and
 - forwarding the packets toward the destination on the selected trunk.
7. (Amended) A method [as claimed in Claim 5 wherein] of routing packets in a network comprising:
 - identifying a destination of the packets;
 - selecting one of plural trunks forming a composite trunk to the destination, the trunk [is] being dynamically selected to [dynamically] balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk; and
 - forwarding the packets toward the destination on the selected trunk.